



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW DIVISION, LEADER WILL FOCUS ON ENHANCING AND COORDINATING SERVICES TO ARIZONA'S GROWING ELDERLY POPULATION

PHOENIX – (November 27, 2006) The latest addition to the DES leadership team will bring renewed focus and attention to programs and services for vulnerable Arizona adults.

Bob York, a 30-year veteran in services for vulnerable individuals, joined the Department of Economic Security November 6 as the Assistant Director for the new Division of Aging and Adult Services. DES created the new division earlier this year to increase the focus on aging issues within the Department, elicit more intra- and interagency collaboration around aging initiatives, improve coordination with advocacy and community groups, and increase visibility and leadership at the national level.

York embraces the DES philosophy of improving outcomes for vulnerable adults by involving them, community partners and other state agencies in the design and delivery of services.

"I look forward to taking on the challenges and opportunities presented by the changes taking place at DES and in the aging community," York said. "Partnering with vulnerable adults and the community is the best way to ensure that the services we provide do what they are supposed to do – help people to be as independent as possible for as long as possible."

York spent 10 years in leadership of Minnesota's largest nonprofit social service organization, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin (LSS). At LSS, he worked with community-based service providers to oversee a host of services to the elderly, including assisted living, senior companion, foster grandparent, foster care, and adoption. York's 30-year career in social services also includes serving as an assistant commissioner with the Department of Human Services, where he oversaw aging and adult services, child and adult protective services, chemical dependency, developmental disabilities, foster care and child care licensing, and child care assistance. He holds a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin.

DES Director Tracy L. Wareing said York's broad-based experience makes him the ideal candidate to move efforts forward to enhance and coordinate services to all vulnerable adults, including the elderly.

"We expect Mr. York will bring great things not only to DES clients, but to community partners and other key stakeholders in the aging community," Wareing said.

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